M

Dept (1948) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 5794

Dated 23-11-1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Research - Production of Ergot - Sale to private firm - Fixation of price - Arrangements for processing at Coimbatore - Paper recorded

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Development Department.

Memorandum No. 58211/A-II/48-2 dated 2nd July 1948.

Sub:- Agriculture - Research - Ergot - Sale to private firms - Sale price - Fixation.

Ref:- G.O. No. 2284, Development, dated 6th May 1948.
From the Director of Agriculture, D.1.506/48 dated 19.5.1948.

The Government approve the proposal of the Director of Agriculture to fix the price of raw ergot produced by the Agricultural Department at Rs. 20/- per lb. excluding packing, etc. charges, for sale to private firms, till the Medical Stores Department, Madras takes over the existing stock for processing into ergot preparations.

2. The Director of Agriculture is requested to report after three months the quantity of ergot sold to private firms and the balance on hand showing separately the quantity taken by the Medical Stores Department for processing.

C.V. Narasimhan,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To

The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
The Accountant-General through the Finance Department.
Copy to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, Madras.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Development Department.

Memorandum No. 58211-A-II/48-3 dated 15th July 1948.

Sub:- Agriculture - Ergot - Processing.

Ref:- From the Director of Agriculture, No. D.1.506/48 dated 19.5.1948.

The Government would like to know whether arrangements cannot be made for raw ergot into ergot preparations by this Government itself instead of by the Medical Stores Department of the Government of India. The Director of Agriculture is requested to examine whether the processing can be done at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore. He is also requested to consider in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests whether a plant can be established at the Nilgiris both for pyrethrum and ergot extraction, transferring the pyrethrum extraction plant from Calicut.

2. The Director of Agriculture is requested to submit an early report in the matter.

C.V. Narasimhan,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To
The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

From

R.M. Sundaram, Esq., I.C.S.,
Director of Agriculture,
Chepauk, Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Madras.

No. D.Dis. 690/48 dated 7.9.1948.

Sir,

Sub:- Agriculture - Ergot - Processing.

Ref:- Government Memorandum No. 58211/A-II/48-3 dated 15.7.1948.

I submit the following remarks on the Government's suggestion for processing raw ergot by the Agricultural Department.

2. A standard defatted ergot powder (Ergota preparata) and a liquid extract (Extractuim Ergotae Liquidum) are processed from raw ergot. This standardised ergot powder called 'prepared ergot' consists of moderately fine powdered drug deprived of its fat by percolation with light petroleum and adjusted to contain 0.2% of total alkalaids of Ergot calculated as ergotoxine (limits 0.19 to 0.21) of which not less than 15% consists of water-soluble alkaloid of Ergot, calculated as ergometrine. The liquid extract is made by macerating and percolating the powdered and defatted drug with 1% solution of tartaric acid in 50% alcohol. The percolate is collected in portions which are assayed for their content of alkaloi and then mixed together so that an extract containing 0.06% of total alkaloids calculated as Ergotoxine is produced (The British pharmacopeia and sixth Addendum to the same).

3. The Government Agricultural Chemist who inspected the Pyrethrum extraction plant at Calicut is of the opinion that it is obsolutely impossible to utilise the Pyrethrum extraction plant at Calicut for both ergot and Pyrethrum preparations for the following reasons:-

The two processes, pyrethrum extraction and ergotine manufacture are very dissimilar. The former is contact extraction with kerosene oil while the latter is defatting with ether and preparation of tincture with alcohol. The former is for external use only and may be a stomach poison while ergot preparation is taken internally. The reagent used in the former is kerosene oil while the latter requires highly volatile reagents of ether and alchol. Pyrethrum is extracted in open drums while defatting of ergot must be done in gas tight apparatus such as a soxhlet or else the ether would volatalise and cause dangerous explosion, apart from loss of reagents.

4. I agree with the Government Agricultural Chemists the preparations of ergot requires special procees, Special equipments and Buildings and should be done in a place away from the main buildings as the reagents are of an inflamable nature under a Biochemist with special training in the manufacture of drugs. Under these circumstances, it is best to continue the ergot processing under the supervision of the Medical Department itself.

5. I have not received the remarks of the Chief Conservator of Forests and in view of what is said above, his remarks do not seem to be necessary.

(Sd) C.R. Srinivasa Ayyangar,

For Director of Agriculture.

Copy to the Government Agricultural Chemist, Lawley Road P.O.
Copy to the Government Mycologist, Lawley Road P.O.
Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras for information with reference to the Government Memorandum cited above.

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/True copy/

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 7.8.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

In the Memorandum on page 5 c.f. the remarks of the Director of Agriculture have been called on the following points:-

(1) whether the processing of raw ergot produced by the Agricultural Department could be done at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore by this Government instead of entrusting the work to the Medical Stores Department (Government of India).

(2) whether a plant can be established in Nilgiris both for pyrethrum and ergot extraction.

Please see the reply from the Director of Agriculture on page 9 c.f. It will be seen that the suggestions are not feasible and the Director of Agriculture considers that it is best to continue the existing arrangements for processing ergot. In the circumstances stated, no further action is called for. For orders.

Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) may see with reference to the minutes on page 4 above.

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24.9.48.

x x x
27.8.

W.R.S. Sattianathan,
27.8.

Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) K.M.
29.8.

The papers may be recorded.

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G.O. Ms. No. 5794 dated 23.11.1948.

Agriculture - Research - Production of ergot - Sale to private firms - Fixation of price - Arrangements for processing at Coimbatore - Papers - Recorded.

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/True copy/

R. Nagarajan 4.2.54
Office Assistant
~~Superintendent,~~
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s. 7.8.

28/12/53 28/12.